

Message Text

SECRET POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 CAIRO 03798 031304Z

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 030940Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6970

S E C R E T CAIRO 3798

EXDIS

FOR UNDERSECRETARY SISCO FORM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR EG

SUBJ: MFA TELECOMMUNICATIONS

1. IN MEETING WITH SIRRI JUNE 2, HE ASKED FOR OUR HELP IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOLLOWING: HE RECALLED THAT SOME YEARS AGO NATO SECURITY COMMITTEE HAD PLACED AN EMBARGO ON THE EXPORT OF CERTAIN TYPES OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT TO EGYPT. MFA TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK WHICH WAS SET UP ABOUT 14 YEARS AGO, IS LARGELY SIEMANS EQUIPMENT. PART OF THIS EQUIPMENT, AS DESCRIBED BY SIRRI, ARE CIPHER MACHINES, WHICH SCRAMBLE THE REGULAR TELEX PERFORATED TAPES. IT IS THESE CIPHER SCRAMBLING MACHINES WHICH ARE UNDER EMBARGO.

2. WHILE MFA ALSO HAS SOME OTHER TYPES OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT OBTAINED ELSEWHERE, ITS STRONG PREFERENCE IS FOR SIEMANS AND MFA NEEDS SOME ADDITIONAL SIEMANS SCRAMBLING EQUIPMENT. THE NATO EMBARGO, HE RECALLED, WAS IMPOSED UNDER DIFFERENT POLITICAL CONDITIONS AND CIRCUMSTANCES. SPEAKING FOR THE GOE, HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE EMBARGO CAN NOW BE LIFTED SOLELY REPEAT SOLELY TO PERMIT THE MFA TO ACQUIRE SOME ADDITIONAL SIEMANS EQUIPMENT OF THE TYPE INDICATED ABOVE. HE

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 03798 031304Z

STRESSED NO REPEAT NO SUCH EQUIPMENT WILL BE BOUGHT FOR THE MINISTRY OF WAR OR ANY OTHER EGYPTIAN

INSTITUTION.

3. SIRRI INDICATED THAT HE IS CALLING IN THE GERMAN
CHARGE TOMORROW TO RAISE THE SUBJECT WITH HIM.
HE WILL ASK THE FRG TO RAISE IN THE NATO SECURITY
GROUP THE MATTER OF A PARTIAL LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO
ON SIEMANS CIPHER MACHINES AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE
THAT THE US REPRESENTATIVE ON THAT GROUP WOULD
SUPPORT SUCH A PROPOSAL.
EILTS

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NNN

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